Waste of Britain

†659.SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the domestic waste of Britain being dumped in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment of the harm being caused by this waste to the environment in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the steps being taken by Government to check the inflow of foreign waste in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the Central Board of Excise and Customs, no case of dumping of domestic waste from Britain has been noticed.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Conservation of tigers

660. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any plan for conservation of tigers together with creation of Tiger Protection Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the allocation made during 2008-09 for the purpose and their utilization; and

(d) the details of action plan of Government for protection of Big Cat and prevention from easy catch to the poachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Funding support under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is provided to tiger States for antipoaching operations, involving local work force, ex-army personnel, homeguards etc. Further, the policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *inter-alia*, contains a one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a 'Special Tiger Protection Force'. Action has been taken for the needful in this regard.

(d) The details of action taken by the Government for conservation and protection of big cats and other wild animals are given in the statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation and protection of big cats are given below:

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

Administrative steps

2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel / home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/ wireless facilities.

3. 100% Central Assistance provided to 17 Tiger Reserves as an additionality for deployment of Tiger Protection Force, comprising of ex-army personnel and local workforce.

4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *interalia,* ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual / audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

6. Approval accorded for declaring eight new Tiger Reserves.

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *interalia,* include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including copredators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.

9. Around 31111 sq.km. of critical/core tiger habitat identified in 17 States.

10. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz*. Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

14. During the Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Reintroduction of Tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve

15. A male tiger and a tigress have been reintroduced in the Sariska Tiger Reserve (Rajasthan), based on a recovery strategy suggested by the Wildlife Institute of India. The tigers are being closely monitored radio telemetry.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

16. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *interalia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection. A one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore has been provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force. Action has been taken for the needful in this regard.

Tiger projects

661. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total amount spent in India on Tiger Projects, the total number of tigers, elephants, lions and leopards in India as on today and the details of Census report from 2000 to 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): The Central Assistance provided to tiger States under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger during the Tenth and current Plan period are given in the Statement-I (*See* below). As per the findings of the recent all India estimation of tiger using the refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. As a part of the recent all India tiger estimation, only the spatial occupancy of leopard within the 17 tiger States has been ascertained. The population of tiger, and spatial occupancy of leopard in tiger States are given in the Statement-II (*See* below). Details of elephant and lion population from 2000 onwards are given in the Statement-III.